

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit

July 2010

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Phase 2, Pilot Online Formative Assessment Writing Program

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is launching Phase 2 of a pilot online formative assessment. The purpose of this pilot is to gain further experience with a formative assessment writing program, Vantage Learning's My Access. This product was chosen from a group of four writing programs used in Montana classrooms as Phase 1 of the online formative assessment writing program in the 2009-10 school year. The OPI invites you to apply to use My Access in your classroom as part of Phase 2 of the pilot. For more information and the application:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/MCPresents/FAME/10Application.pdf>

Professional Development Opportunities-Communication Arts

Northwest Montana's Reading Council's Annual Literacy Conference, August 18, 2010, Flathead High School, Kalispell, Montana. For more information and a registration form please contact Northwest Reading Council, c/o Megan Koppes, 103 Getty Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Update

Seventeen states have adopted. Montana is following a plan and you can help. Montana will be conducting an alignment study that involves out of state experts completing a comparison of the CCSS and Montana Standards and Essential Learning Expectations, completing a comparison using Achieve's Gap Analysis Tool; and looking at a comparison using the CCSSO Survey of Enacted Curriculum Tool. This alignment study will help determine the next steps.

What can you do?

- Examine the documents <http://www.corestandards.org/>
- Watch the online presentation <http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p16363458/> and keep checking for updates.
- Give us your views by completing a survey about the CCSS survey (found in two locations)
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/CommArts/index.html>
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/math/>
- Join the team that will meet at the Montana Learning Center August 11-13, to complete the comparison using Achieve's Gap Analysis Tool as well as determine what and how the 15 percent possible addition to the CCSS will look like.

Sign up TODAY for the August 11-13, CCSS Team; contact Kris Goyins, kgoyins@mt.gov or Jean Howard, jhoward@mt.gov

Professional Development Opportunities-Mathematics

Northwest Mathematics Conference in Spokane, October 7-9, 2010. Online registration now available <http://49thnwmathconference.org> .

NCTM E-Seminars, E-Workshops, Reflection Guides, Focus of the year Resources, Online Resources and much more <http://nctm.org/profdev/default.aspx?id=398>

School Libraries



It is the mission of the school library program to ensure that students are effective users and producers of ideas and information.

****Professional Affiliation***



Professional Affiliation

Renew your membership or join the School Library Media Division of the Montana Library Association. July is the month to renew your membership for the 2010-11 school year. Please visit www.mtlib.org for memberships, scholarships, travel grants and other information. Read current and past issues of the MLA *Focus* Newsletter.

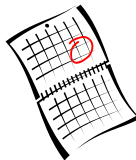
****Feedback Needed!***



Feedback Needed for Accreditation Rules

Please visit the OPI Web site to review and comment on the existing Accreditation rules for school library programs. Comments are due to Kelly Glass (kglass@mt.gov) no later than July 15, 2010. This is your opportunity as teacher librarians and information professionals to lend your voice to inform the review of rules pertaining to school library programs and staffing.
http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/index.html?gpm=1_2#gpm1_3

****Save the Date!***



Mark Your Calendars

Summer School Library Workshop, July 21 in Great Falls (e-mail Colet for details)
MSL Fall Conference, September 24 & 25 in Great Falls (details to come)
MEA-MFT Conference, October 21 & 22 in Helena (visit www.mea-mft.org for information)

OPI Contact: Colet Bartow, (406) 444-3583, cbartow@mt.gov

MT Science Educator Elected to National Council

John Graves was recently elected as the National Science Teacher Association District XV Director representing Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. He is an adjunct professor in the Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) program at Montana State University. He was a middle school science teacher at Monforton School in Bozeman, Montana before moving to Montana State University. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, welcomed Graves as one of six new members to its council. Comprised of 18 district directors, the council serves as the advisory body to the board of directors. Graves wants to look at ways to better serve the science education community through a more thorough exploration of technology delivery tools and even greater emphasis on science inquiry and literacy for all learners.

***New Survey Finds
Parents Need Help
Encouraging Their
Kids in Science***

New Survey Finds Parents Need Help Encouraging Their Kids in Science

A new survey announced last month by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. found that the vast majority (94 percent) of science teachers wish their students' parents had more opportunities to engage in science with their children. However, more than half (53 percent) of parents of school-aged children admit that they could use more help to support their child's interest in science. The survey was conducted among a sample of 500 science teachers and 506 parents, including 406 parents of school-aged children. To read more about the findings of the survey, visit the [NSTA web site](#).

***FamilyScienceQuest
Features Fun
Science Experiments
for Families***

Last month, Boehringer Ingelheim launched a new YouTube channel called FamilyScienceQuest. Families nationwide can take advantage of the information presented on this dedicated YouTube channel, featuring simple, fun science experiments that parents can conduct at home with their children—such as making colors explode in a puddle of milk, creating sidewalk chalk, and making a cloud. To access the video tutorials, visit this [YouTube page](#).

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***Center for Early
Literacy Learning***

CELL Center for Early Literacy Learning

CELL is a research-to-practice technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Research to Practice Division. The main goal of CELL is to promote the adoption and sustained use of evidence-based early literacy learning practices by early childhood intervention practitioners, parents, and other caregivers of young children, birth to five years of age, with identified disabilities, developmental delays, and those at-risk for poor outcomes.

CELL offers practical guides for teachers and families to promote early literacy skills. Follow the [CELL link](#) to access guides that suit your needs.

***Storybird
*Collaborative
Storytelling***



[Storybirds](#) are short, visual stories that you make with family and friends to share and (soon) print. Take a quick [tour](#) to learn more about this creative Web-based tool for children of all ages.

**Emotional
Literacy/Emotional
Intelligence**

What is “Emotional Literacy”? This term was first used in literary criticism in 1961 and has become an increasingly popular concept in education today. Dr. John Mayer at the University of New Hampshire and Dr. Peter Salovey at Yale University officially defined emotional literacy in 1997 as the ability to recognize emotions in order to better respond to our world, with the goals of perceiving, facilitating, understanding, and managing our emotions (Mayer-Salovey-Caruso).

In the 1990s, Daniel Goleman became a leading voice in this field of study through his best-selling book, *Emotional Intelligence*, asserting that emotional literacy is twice as important as traditional IQ. Goleman advocates for schools to teach emotional literacy as part of the core curriculum, as his research found that social and emotional learning “not only improves children’s social and emotional abilities, but also lowers risks like violence, substance abuse, and unwanted teen pregnancies, while making kids better behaved and more positive about learning. Most impressively, academic achievement scores improve by an average 12 to 15%.”

To learn more about [Emotional Intelligence](#) , or what some schools are doing to address Emotional Literacy, follow the links below.

<http://www.ei-schools.com>

http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=466

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The Content Standards Informer (CSI) will be distributed the first Friday of each month through the Content Standards Informer Listserv. If you would like to receive the CSI each month please sign up for the listserv at:

<http://lists.opi.mt.gov/mailman/listinfo/contentstandardsinformer>.